

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/849,021

Examiner

Kyle M. Riddle

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

3748

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 05202004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed combination including the limitations of a lash adjuster with a ball joint connected to a valve stem on one end and contacting an adjuster screw mechanism with male and female threads biased toward the valve stem, the male and female threads being serration-shaped such that pressure flanks bearing axially from the force applied from the valve stem have a greater flank angle than the clearance flanks, is not disclosed or rendered obvious over the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The IDS (PTO-1449) filed on 20 May 2004 has been considered. An initialized copy is attached hereto.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 8 patents.

- Gill (U.S. Patent 4,548,168) discloses a threaded tappet adjuster with a ball joint between the push rod and rocker arm.

- Gill (U.S. Patent 4,706,620) discloses an automatic clearance adjuster with screw members biased toward the valve stem.

- McRobert et al. (U.S. Patent 4,981,117) disclose an automatic clearance adjuster with running flanks and grooved locking flanks and a ball joint connected to the rocker arm.

- Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,032,630) disclose a valve lifter with serration-shaped threads and pressure flanks with greater flank angles than the clearance flanks.

- Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,109,228) disclose a valve lifter with serration-shaped threads and pressure flanks with greater flank angles than the clearance flanks.

- Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,729,288) disclose a lash adjuster with serration-shaped threads and pressure flanks with greater flank angles than the clearance flanks.

- Gill (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0075131) discloses an automatic valve clearance adjuster with flank and helix angles selected to ensure lash adjustment.

- Yasuda (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0154572) discloses a lash adjuster with serration-shaped threads and pressure flanks with greater flank angles than the clearance flanks.

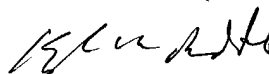
Communication

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle M. Riddle whose telephone number is (703) 306-3409, and effective 22 November 2004 will be (571) 272-4864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (07:30-5:00) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (571) 272-4859 effective 22 November 2004. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kyle M. Riddle
Examiner
Art Unit 3748

kmr



THOMAS DENION
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700